

# 'Envoy plagiarised 1976 article'

## Shanti Aboobaker

CAPE TOWN academic Colin Darch has accused the former Ethiopian ambassador to South Africa, Tesfaye Habisso, of plagiarising an article which Darch presented at a conference in 1976.

The Oxford-educated academic is a senior librarian at the University of Cape Town's African Studies Library.

Despite several attempts to

reach Habisso via e-mail and through the Ethiopian Embassy in Pretoria, he could not be reached for comment.

The Cape Times, however, is in possession of both Darch and Habisso's articles.

Darch's article is titled *The Ethiopian Student Movement and the Struggle Against Imperialism, 1960-1974*, while Habisso's article is titled *The Ethiopian Student Movement and the Struggle Against Feu-*

*dal Monarchy and Imperialism, 1960-1974.*

Speaking to the Cape Times yesterday, Darch said his article was presented at a conference in Dar es Salaam in 1976.

He learnt of the alleged plagiarism when Ethiopian journalist Abebe Gallaw, editor of Addis Voice, brought it to his attention.

Addis Voice is an online

**To Page 5**

# 'Plagiarised' article published 33 years later

From Page 1

media agency focusing on Ethiopia.

Habisso published his version in 2009 on a pro-Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) website.

The EPRDF has been in government since 1995.

Habisso, 64, has three decades in public service and has served as a member of the Ethiopian Council of Representatives and as the administrator of the Secretariat.

Yesterday, Darch reiterated that the article was his original text and that he was "very surprised" that anyone would want to use it when there was updated information available.

"I wrote it so long ago - I published it in 1976. The giveaway is that every source is from the 1970s. He (Habisso)



**'MY WORDS':** Colin Darch, (left), has accused the former Ethiopian ambassador to South Africa, Tesfaye Habisso, of plagiarism.

published it in 2009.

"Why wouldn't he have included sources since the 1970s? There has been serious work by a number of academ-

ics since then."

Darch said the issue of plagiarism had politicised his article. "(The charge of plagiarism) is being used as a stick to

beat the current Ethiopian government," he said.

"I'm uncomfortable with a piece of my writing becoming politicised."

Darch put his article on the internet in 2002, and released an updated version of the document in early 2008 on his own website. Asked whether he had contacted Habisso to address the matter, Darch said he had not as yet done so.

"I'm not sure at this point," he said. There's not much I can do. I will probably write him an e-mail asking Mr Habisso to remove the article from the web," he said.

The paper was written 35 years ago. I am scandalised. As the aggrieved party, I feel obligated to take it up." - Independent Cadet News Agency  
*shanti.aboobaker@inl.co.za*